

# THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OF

## Politics and General Literature.

VOL. V.]

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1821.

[No. 280.]

### SUMMARY OF NEWS.

—585—

#### Politics of Europe.

We give to-day the debate in the House of Commons, on the 1st of June, on the Financial State of the Country, on the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the House resolve itself into a Committee on the Budget for the present year. The great length of this Debate corresponds in some measure with the magnitude and importance of the subject, and merits the attention of all who wish to be accurately informed as to the real state of our national affairs. A just view of them, however, cannot be gained solely by the perusal of these arithmetical statements, without taking into account numerous other circumstances, as the state of our Manufactures, Commerce, and Agriculture, intimately connected with our real condition and future prospects.

The dexterity of the Chancellor of the Exchequer at making out a fair statement, is well known, and the country has had cause to regret that the reality sometimes comes far short of his sanguine anticipations. But when this plausible statement is divested of the gratulatory comments of the Minister of Finance, it will be found to afford little cause of immediate joy to the country, far less reason to indulge in flattering anticipations of the future.

Allowing that we have this year an efficient Sinking Fund of three millions, or even four millions, according to the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what proportion does such a sum bear to the amount of the National Debt? But if we take into view that this is only a third or fourth part of the nominal Sinking Fund, a Fund that ought to be kept sacred and untouched as a security to the national creditor, and that although the national creditor had a right to rely on the faith of this pledge, and yet it has been violated, what ground have we for exultation? On the contrary, it must be admitted that the Sinking Fund has served merely to keep up the credit of the stocks, and has done comparatively nothing to reduce the National Debt, though this was professed to be the only object to which it should ever be applied.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer compliments the country on the "firmness, credit, and stability with which it has passed through the severe ordeal" to which it has been subjected, and expresses himself confident that whatever difficulties the war has entailed upon the country, will be overcome by the "zeal and energies of the people." This is bestowing praise where it is justly due; and it would be well if the hoodwinked followers of Ministers would in future, in imitation of their leader, give the people of England credit for having borne so patiently and magnanimously all that it became men to bear, and no less credit when they refuse to bear more. But the present holders of power have so long set themselves in opposition to the just principles of their opponents, that the truth has no charms for them, even when spoken by their leaders whom they admire, whom they imitate only in the worst part of their conduct, and whom they would instantly desert if they suspected them of harbouring principles of candour and liberality.

In estimating the effect of the national burdens on the prosperity of the country, nothing can be more fallacious than taking the mere nominal amount of taxes levied as a standard. If the relative value of money and of other articles were always the same, the reduction of the nominal amount of taxation

would be indeed a blessing; but when the price of property falls, or that of money rises, it is in vain to impose upon the world by an apparent reduction of burdens. The real burden upon the Agriculturist or the Labourer is the quantity of wheat or of work that can be procured for the sum paid in taxes; it is no matter how much the sum be diminished if these continue the same; but if these be actually increased, the diminution of the nominal sum is a poor consolation. The resumption of cash payments, when in full operation, will probably, by increasing the value of money, greatly augment the national burdens.

The future presents a more gloomy prospect; for with no essential reduction of burdens the means of bearing them are continually diminishing. If the effects of the National Debt have already been so severely felt, what will be the sufferings of posterity? It is generally acknowledged that many pay their taxes at present by trenching upon their capital, and this being once destroyed how is it to be restored? and capital being the source of all revenue where is the revenue to come from when the sources of it are cut off for ever? When such is the situation of things, to flatter the nation about its future prospects seems much the same as to tell a man already in the decline of life, that his strength will increase with his years.

But if we take into consideration that the immense sum annually extracted from the suffering population is almost wholly swallowed up by the National Debt, and only a small surplus left to be applied to the current expences, what cause have we for congratulation? We have taxes on the very necessities of life, duties imposed upon these necessities for the purpose of raising their price, which are only taxes in another shape; we have a large Army and Navy employed in the collection of these taxes and duties; and after all this extraordinary exertion and the suffering of which it is the cause, it appears that not more than six millions of the sum raised is really applicable to the current expences of the nation. The rest is mortgaged and squandered already; and the nation is called upon to be thankful for this small residue of its income that still remains! And so difficult is it to keep even so far above the water, that means confessedly of the most immoral tendency are resorted to, to swell the scanty sum. It ill befits the pensioned advocates of sinecures and every species of peculation, to declaim against the immorality and blasphemy of the times, when Lotteries are patronised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to afford the means of paying these very parasites. But it would be in vain to argue with persons whose opinions spring only from their own personal interests; and it is probable that if there were in Calcutta two pensioned Editors, they would be found as hostile to all liberal principles, as virulent against those who maintained them, as furious in their declamations against sedition and blasphemy, as the Editors of the MORNING POST and COURIER in London, with this difference, that equal want of principle with inferior abilities would appear much more contemptible and disgusting.

However, we refer our readers to the Debate itself, from which each will form his own opinion how far the affairs of the nation are to be considered as improved; and although we believe we may have anticipated the sentiments of many, some may no doubt entertain very different opinions. The gross amount of the Poor Rates paid by the nation, the average wages of Manufacturers and Labourers, and the average price of provisions throughout the country, would form an instructive Commentary on the Exposé of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

## Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1821.

## THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the Order of the day for the House to resolve into a Committee.

Mr. HUME, adverting to some printed papers explanatory of the state of the Finances, which had been distributed in the course of the evening, expressed his surprise and regret that any partiality had been evinced in the distribution of such papers. Such partiality was, indeed, highly improper. He was aware that it was through the favour of Government that such information as these Papers contained was given to the members of that House; but then such information should not be confined to particular persons friendly to the Ministers, instead of being put into the hands of those who, upon examination, might be able to detect any fallacy which appeared in those papers, or to make an unbiassed use of any correct information which they might contain.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER declared that he had no disposition whatever to sanction any partial distribution of these papers, which were intended for the general use of the House. But the fact was, that they were not ready for delivery until a late hour to-day, and he had not himself received a copy of them until five o'clock, this evening. The Right Hon. Gentleman then laid on the table several public accounts, pursuant to order, and the House resolved itself into a Committee.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose, evidently under a great degree of depression, which rendered him still less audible than usual. From the arrangements made by the House last Session with regard to our finances, the Right Hon. Gentleman said that he felt relieved from the necessity of entering much at length into the subject on the present occasion. The House had already voted, with some slight exceptions, the various Estimates for the year, and he was now called upon to present the usual annual exposition of the Ways and Means to meet those Supplies. This was a task, which he could wish, particularly from a recent melancholy event, had devolved upon some other person (*hear, hear, hear, the Right Honourable Gentleman being understood to allude to the death of his relative Mr. Morton Eden*). There were many of his friends who were much more competent to the undertaking. But understanding that to decline or to postpone this undertaking would be productive of public embarrassment, he felt it incumbent upon him to come forward and do this duty. (*hear*.) He would, therefore, endeavour to state as clearly and as shortly as possible the estimated expenditure for the year, with the resources forth-coming to defray that expenditure; and first he would recapitulate the Supplies. For the Supply of the Army the House had voted, according to the Estimates, 8,750,000*l.*, which was 693,243*l.* less than the vote of last year, that vote being 9,453,243*l.* For the Navy, 6,176,700*l.* which was 409,994*l.* less than the vote of last year, that vote being 6,586,694*l.* The vote for the Ordnance was 1,195,100*l.* which was less than the vote of last year by 4,450*l.* that vote being 1,999,550*l.* Of the miscellaneous services the much greater part had been already voted, but some items still remained for consideration. The total estimated amount of this head of service was 1,900,000*l.* which has less than the vote of last year by 544,000*l.* that vote being for 2,444,000*l.* The total of these supplies then was 18,021,800*l.* while that for last year was 19,673,688*l.* So that the total reduction of the public expence since the last year was 1,651,888*l.* (*hear, hear, hear*.) It would be in the recollection of the House, that when at an early period of the Session, he had intimated an expectation that a diminution in the public expenditure would be effected to the amount of a million and a half, there were not wanting those who were not ready to assent to the probability of such a reduction being accomplished. It would therefore appear, that in this instance his Majesty's Ministers had gone beyond what the House had expected. To the supplies which he had already enumerated, there was to be added for the interest of Exchequer Bills the same sum that had been voted for a similar purpose last year; namely one million. To this must be added, for the Sinking Fund on Exchequer Bills, 250,000*l.* making, with the supplies which he had already gone over, total amount—

For the service of the present year ..... £19,311,800  
The total voted under the same Heads for last year was. £21,033,088  
It would therefore be seen that the reduction effected in the present year did not fall far short of 1,800,000*l.*, its amounts being 1,771,888*l.* He would now proceed to lay before the Committee the Ways and Means to which he had proposed to direct their attention. Upon the Annual Taxes he had taken a credit of 4,000,000*l.* instead of three millions, as was the previous practice, for a reason which he would explain to the Committee.—A certain portion of the Excise Duties granted during the war, and which were to have expired on the 5th of next July, had been added to the Annual Taxes, instead of being continued to the Consolidated

Fund. The produce of these having heretofore amounted to a million, he had felt justified in adding that million to the estimated amount of the Annual Taxes. But it was proper to remark, that for the increases so claimed, a corresponding diminution would be found in another portion of the ways and Means. This would be seen in the very next article. The Committee would find that the temporary Excise Duties taken for the present year were taken at 1,500,000*l.* instead of 2,500,000*l.*, at which they were estimated last year. The reason of this he had already explained, viz. the transfer of a portion of the Excise Duties to the Annual Taxes. The result was this that under the two heads he had enumerated, the expected produce was precisely the same as last year, the amount being 5,600,000*l.* For the Lottery he took a credit of 200,000*l.* In the last year it was taken at 240,000*l.*; but as the actual produce had fallen considerably short of that sum, he did not deem it prudent to take it at more than 200,000*l.* for the present year. For the Old Stores he thought he was entitled to take 160,000*l.* The next item to which he had to call the attention of the Committee, was in its character somewhat novel and extraordinary, and required explanation. He had just laid before the House, by command of his Majesty papers by which it would be seen that there was a surplus of the pecuniary indemnity due to this country, from France, amounting to 500,000*l.* which was applicable to the public service of the present year. He regretted that he could not lay before the House a detailed account of the whole of the payments which had been made by the French Government, and their application. It had not been possible to get them made up in time, the payments not being completed; but early in the next Session of Parliament, he expected it would be laid upon their table. At present he would give the House such information as it was in his power to supply from memory. It would be remembered that the amount of the sum to be paid by France as an indemnity to this country, had amounted to 125,000,000 of French livres, or about 5,000,000*l.* sterling. From this sum the bounty of Parliament had taken 1,000,000*l.* which had been bestowed, in conjunction with our Allies, as a donation to the army employed in achieving the last glorious events of the war. The extra expences of the Army of Occupation had been provided for by further deductions to a considerable amount. The French Government, in addition to the sums paid as indemnities, had advanced other sums to meet the expence of the Army of Occupation, which it had been thought necessary to maintain in France. But as the allowances for a Continental Army were not equal to those required for a British Army, a considerable expence had fallen upon this country which, though in the first instance met from other sources, had finally been paid out of the indemnity. The sums issued by the Paymaster-General for the pay of the troops in France, amounted to 1,200,000*l.* In addition to this, there were the payments to the Hanoverian Government for the pay of the Hanoverian troops, and some other payments made to indemnity persons who had claims upon the British Government arising out of the Treaty of Paris. The particulars of these payments would be laid before the House at the earliest opportunity. After providing for all those charges, and a farther payment of 2,000,000*l.* for fortifications in the Netherlands, there still remained applicable to the service of the present year, a surplus of 500,000*l.* payable by the French Government. Besides this there might still perhaps be a small winding up applicable to the service of the next year. He hoped he had stated the outline of the case intelligibly to the House. For the particulars, of course, they must wait until the accounts could be produced. The next item to which he had to call their attention, was the sum received in repayment of Exchequer Bills for Public Works, under an Act passed in 1819. The sum realised last year under this head, was 193,000*l.* In the present year it amounted to 125,000*l.* While upon this subject, he could not but congratulate the House upon the successful operation of the Act to which he had alluded. By the issue of the Exchequer Bills which that Act had authorized, most important assistance had been afforded to the industry of the Country, and several public works had been brought to a successful conclusion, which had previously languished from a want of funds to carry them on. Upon this subject, therefore, he sincerely congratulated the House, that without bringing any charge on the Country, effectual aid had been given to those engaged in carrying on important, and in many instances necessary public works, which could not but prove highly conducive to the general good. The only remaining item on this head, was the surplus of the Ways and Means for the year 1820, and which would be found to amount to 81,630*l.* The total amount therefore of what might be called ready money produce of this year was 6,570,000*l.* To make this sum meet the supplies which had been granted for the service of the year, it would be necessary to contract a loan, which he intended to provide for, by taking 12,500,000*l.* from the Sinking Fund of Great Britain, and 600,000*l.* for the Irish Sinking Fund. It was necessary to observe that in consequence of this division he should certainly not feel any objection to the measure of giving a re-transfer of stock, so that the stockholder might be enabled to choose in which country he would receive his dividend. The total amount therefore of the ready money produce being 6,570,000*l.* and the loan thus proposed to be raised from the Sinking Fund being 13,000,000*l.*, making a total of 19,570,000*l.* to which sum was to be added a sum of 500,000*l.* Irish, amounting in British



currency to 461,539l. for the increase of the capital of the Bank of Ireland. The whole amount of the Ways and Means was consequently 20,081,561l., leaving an excess of about 12,000l. over the services of the year, which amounted to 20,018,200l. —The Right Honourable Gentleman proceeded to recapitulate the several items of the Supply and the Ways and Means, comparing the Estimates for the present year, with those of 1820, as follows:—

1820.	SUPPLY.	1821.
9,443,248	Army.....	8,750,000
6,580,695	Navy.....	6,176,700
1,199,050	Ordnance.....	1,195,100
2,441,109	Miscellaneous.....	1,900,000
19,673,098		18,021,800
18,021,800		
1,000,000	Interest on Exchequer Bills.....	1,100,000
410,000	Sinking Fund on ditto.....	290,000
21,083,688		
19,311,800		
1,771,888		
9,000,000	By reduction of Unfunded Debt, viz.	
	Irish Treasury Bills.....	500,000
	Bills for Public Works.....	200,000
		700,000
30,083,688		20,018,200
WAYS AND MEANS.		
Granted for 1820.	Estimate for 1821.	
3,000,000	Annual Taxes.....	4,000,000
2,500,000	(Excise Duties) Tea Duties.....	1,500,000
240,000	Lottery.....	200,000
260,000	Old Stores.....	163,400
	Surplus of Pecuniary Indemnity, Payable by the French Government..	500,000
108,000	Exchequer Bills for Public Works repaid.....	125,000
	Surplus Ways and Means, 1820....	81,000
	Sinking Fund Loan, viz.	5,570,000
12,000,000	{ Great Britain.....12,500,000 }	13,000,000
	{ Ireland.....500,000 }	
	Bank of Ireland, Increase of Capital..	500,000
	Currency being in British Currency	461,539
12,000,000	{ 5,000,000 Loan }	
	{ 7,000,000 Funding Exchequer Bills }	
30,108,000		20,031,560

From this statement it would appear how large the reductions had been in the course of the present year. He did not feel himself entitled to hold forth any distinct expectations as to the particular reductions which were further in contemplation, but he was at liberty to state that his Majesty's Government were most anxiously directing their attention to every practicable retrenchment, and that such further reduction of the public expenditure, as was consistent with the security and honour of the country, would be brought under the consideration of Parliament in the next Session. He was bound, however, in candour to state, that there were one or two circumstances which were in some degree unfavourable to the prospect of reducing our expenditure. One of those circumstances was the claim upon the public likely to arise from the charge of the Out-Pensioners, if not the In-Pensioners of Greenwich Hospital. That charge had hitherto been defrayed by the Funds of the Hospital, originally arising from sums accumulated during war out of the unclaimed prize money. There was a sum in ready money beside the accumulated funds which was sufficient to provide for the whole charges of the present year, but a doubt had arisen, whether, in point of law, the sums accumulated in the hands of the Directors could be applied to the expenses of the Out-Pensioners, after defraying the whole charge for the In-Pensioners. This would bring a charge to the public of 300,000l. a-year, and he was not certain whether it would be necessary or not in the present year to apply to Parliament for some provision upon the subject. There was another circumstance to which he would allude in a more general manner, and that was the claim of the East India Company upon Government. The Company had applied for the settlement of that claim, and there was no indisposition on the part of the Government to come to a fair adjustment of it. A strict investigation would, however, be required, and he was not prepared to say at what time, or under what circumstances, if ever, it might be just or necessary to apply to Parliament on the subject. He could not say what it might become his duty to ask from Parliament to meet these claims. He, however, considered that it

would not be necessary to require any further addition to be made to the Ways and Means in the course of the present Session. Those already provided would suffice, and at all events a very small issue of Exchequer Bills would enable them to satisfy the demands of the Company. (Mr. Hume inquired the amount of the East India Company's claims?)—The nominal amount of their claims was 3,000,000l., but there were conflicting claims on both sides which would very considerably reduce that sum, and he could only say that Government desired nothing but a fair investigation. He had shewn that the Supply for the present year including 500,000l. for Irish Treasury Bills, and 1,000,000l. for the interest of Exchequer Bills, with a Sinking Fund on them of 290,000l. amounted to 20,018,200l. exclusive of the supplies necessary to meet the existing debt, amounting to 30,708,400l. He wished now to shew how the Irish Sinking Fund Loan would operate upon the purchase of Stock. It would be undoubtedly satisfactory to persons connected with the Funds to know, that although a loan of 12,500,000l. was to be taken from the Sinking Fund in the present year, and though but 12,000,000l. had been taken in the last, the sum for this year's purchase of Stock was 60,000l. larger than the sum appropriated to a like purpose in the year 1820. He would now state the charge in respect of the additions to the public funded debt of the united kingdom, created for the service of the year 1821.

Money borrowed, 12,500,000l. from the Sinking Fund in Great Britain, 100l. 3 per cent. Reduced Annuities—Capital created, 12,500,000l.—Interest, 375,000l.—Sinking Fund, 125,000l.—Total, 500,000l.

30l. 7s. 6d. 3 per cent. Consols—Capital created, 3,726,875l.—Interest, 113,906l. 5s.—Sinking Fund, 37,908l. 15s.—Total, 151,875l.

Total Capital created, 16,226,875l.—Interest, 489,906l. 5s.—Sinking Fund, 162,968l. 15s.—Total 651,875l.

Money borrowed, 500,000l. British currency, from the Sinking Fund in Ireland, 120l. 3s. 2d. Irish, 3l. per cents. for every 100l. 6s. 8d. Irish being 100l. British—Capital created, 500,115l. 7s. 8d.—Interest, 20,804l. 0s. 9d.—Sinking Fund, 5,901l. 3s. 1d.—Total 26,825l. 3s. 10d.

Total money borrowed, 13,000,000l.—Capital created, 16,892,990l. 7s. 8d.—Interest, 509,770l. 5s. 9d.—Sinking Fund, 163,929l. 18s. 1d.—Total, 678,700l. 3s. 10d.

The rate per cent. paid to the Commissioners for the reduction of the national debt—Sinking Fund, Great Britain, 3l. 18s. 3d.—Sinking Fund, Ireland, 4l. 3s. 5d.

The rate per cent. paid including all charges—Sinking Fund, Great Britain, 4l.—Total, Ireland, 4l. 10s.

The following was the comparison of sums received by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt in Great Britain and Ireland, in the year ending the 5th January, 1821; and an estimate of the sums which will be received by them in the year ending 5th Jan. 1822, inclusive of the sums set apart to pay life annuities.

		Sums applicable to the		Total Sum received.
		Purchase of Stock.	Sink. Fund Loans.	
Great Britain.				
Year ending, . . . 5th January	1821	4,191,024	12,400,000	16,591,024
	1822	4,100,202	12,000,000	16,100,202
Ireland (B. C.)				
Year ending, . . . 5th January	1821	645,865	.....	645,865
	1822	491,204	174,462	665,756
United Kingdom.				
Year ending, . . . 5th January	1821	4,746,889	12,400,000	17,146,889
	1822	4,651,400	12,174,462	16,825,868

In another year he hoped there would be no occasion to take a loan from the Sinking Fund of Ireland, but that its full account would be left to operate upon the public debt. There was another important view to be taken of this subject. The Finance Committee of 1817 and 1818, besides unravelling many other intricate accounts, called for statements of the cash payments made in each year by the Commissioners for the reduction of the national debt, in order to shew how much the debt was diminished, and how much of the sum taken to liquidate it was made good by borrowing. This view of the subject he had called upon the House to take in the last as he did in the present year, and to compare the actual income and expenditure of the years 1820, and 1821. In the year ending January 25th, 1821, the revenue actually received in the United Kingdom, amounting to £54,022,714 To this was to be added, for the Lottery ..... 150,154 For Old Stores, ..... 268,920 Repayment of Exchequer Bills ..... 105,000

Amounted together to the Sum of ..... £54,540,818 And now he came to the Expenditure of the same Year:— The actual charge on the consolidated Fund was ..... 48,507,157 Interest upon the Irish Sinking Fund and unfunded Debt, ..... 2,200,310 Making a total of ..... £50,807,376

This was the amount of the charges borne by the public, exclusive of the supplies for the service of the year, which he had before enumerated. The actual expense for the Army, Navy, and other services which he did not think necessary to recapitulate, made the total charge amount to 17,199,864*l*. Then if the actual income were deducted from the above amount of public expenditure, the latter would be found to exceed the revenue by 16,559,176*l*. But if the Sinking Fund were applied to this, amounting to 17,590,773*l*, in point of fact it would appear that there was a surplus of income over the expenditure amounting to 950,597*l*. But this was not a fair way of viewing the subject, because the interest of the unfunded debt was charged 2,300,000*l*. Now, the actual amount of the interest of the unfunded debt outstanding, did not exceed 1,000,000*l*, and the amount of the Sinking Fund 400,000*l*. But then there had been a large arrear of Exchequer Bills, unsatisfied, to the amount of 900,000*l*, which had been met, and this was to be added to the debt liquidated in the last year, making a total of from 1,700,000*l* to 1,800,000*l*. In the course of the year 1820, the situation of the country had improved to that amount clear of everything. He would now proceed to state what he thought was probable would be the amount of the revenue of the present year. In the first instance, he would assume the general Revenue to be the same as the last, and he would presently state the grounds upon which he made this calculation. He would take it then at—

The Lottery at.....	254,022,714
The Lottery at.....	200,000
Old Stores.....	163,400
French Indemnity.....	500,000
Repayment of Exchequer Bills for Public Works.....	125,000

Total.....£55,011,114

The amount charged to the Consolidated Fund would be a little short of what it was last year; it would be less by about 100,000*l*. He would take it in round numbers at—£48,500,000

The Interest on the Unfunded Debt, including Exchequer Bills and some arrears due to the Bank of England..... 1,700,000

Total.....£50,200,000

Without going through the particulars of the Supplies he had before enumerated, it would be sufficient to state, that these, added to the sum he had just named, the total expense of the present year—£68,200,000 being 3,000,000*l* all but 100,000*l* less than the expenditure of last year. Deducting the amount of the revenue from this, there would remain a sum of 18,209,568*l* of expenditure beyond the revenue. But as the Sinking Fund amounted to 16,800,000*l*, there would be an actual reduction of debt to the amount of 3,500,000*l*. As he before remarked, there was 400,000*l* for the interest of Exchequer Bills in arrear. This sum was to be added to the excess of income in the present year, which would thus be made to amount to about 24,000,000*l*. It would be recollected that it was the object of the House to obtain a clear Sinking Fund of 5,000,000*l*. It was not likely that a Sinking Fund to that amount would be obtained in the course of the present year, unless the revenue experienced a very considerable increase. But there was every reason to hope that they should so nearly approach the accomplishment of the object the House had in view, as in the proportion of four to five. He now came to explain the reasons that he had for calculating that the revenue of the present year would not fall short of the revenue of the last. The ground upon which he entertained this expectation was the amount of the actual payments in the first five months in the year. So far as it was possible to make up the account (the Irish accounts being left one fortnight in arrear), it appeared that the progress of the revenue fully justified the hope he had expressed. The actual payments made in Great Britain, between the 5th of January and the 1st of June 1820 amounted to—

.....	£15,550,184
-------	-------------

But that sum included payments for the stock of malt in hand, which formed no part of the regular income of the year. The sum received for the stock in hand amounted to—

.....	312,353
-------	---------

This deducted from the actual payments into the Exchequer for the first five months of the year, reduced the sum he had mentioned to—

.....	15,243,831
-------	------------

The actual payments in Ireland, up to the 20th of May, amounted to—

.....	1,339,480
-------	-----------

The payments for Great Britain..... 15,243,831

The total amount for the United Kingdom being..... £16,583,311

This was the amount of the Revenue up to the period which he had mentioned in 1820. In the present year the actual payments made in Great Britain from the 5th of January to the 1st of June amounted to—

.....	£15,348,322
-------	-------------

The payments for Ireland..... 1,404,312

Total..... £16,823,634

It therefore appeared that in the first five months of the present year there was an excess over the same period in the last of 240,000*l*. If they deducted from the last year's receipts the 312,000*l* for the stock of Malt on hand, the revenues had thus cleared in five months 240,000*l* of the extra sum raised last year upon that account; and they had only to make good 70,000*l* in seven months, to place the Revenue of this year upon an equal footing with the last, even with that adventurous increase of its amount. He thought then that unless some unexpected misfortune occurred, it must be clear that Ministers did not overstate the argument in their own favour, in making that calculation which he had just submitted to the Committee. In 1819, Parliament had determined on doing that which certainly threw a great burden on the country, by imposing new taxes, calculated to produce 3,000,000*l* for the purpose of obtaining a clear Sinking Fund to the amount of 5,000,000*l*. That object had not yet been attained, but he had shown the Committee that they had already approached a Sinking Fund of 4,000,000*l*. It would be well that they should remember what were the circumstances under which this effort was made. The situation of the country had been extraordinary in every point of view. It was to be borne in mind, that large reductions had been made within the period he had alluded to, of certain branches of the National Debt. In August, 1818, the Bank had held Government Securities to no less an amount than 29,000,000*l*. That sum had been reduced under the sanction of Parliament, till the Securities held by the Bank in Exchequer Bills were little more than 9,000,000*l*, beyond the usual current account. Thus the Unfunded Debt had not only been greatly reduced, but 19,000,000*l* of the sum appropriated to that purpose had been paid to the Bank.—These repayments ought to be viewed under all their circumstances, to enable the country to see the extraordinary difficulties which it had surmounted. In every other case in which the Government had made repayments, the money so repaid went back into the general circulation of the country. But in the particular case of the repayments to the Bank, the sums were actually withdrawn altogether from circulation, and were consequently unaccompanied with those exalting effects upon the industry and resources of the country, which could not fail to attend repayments made under any other circumstances.—Indeed, looking at the amount repaid to the Bank, he could not but think that it would have been impossible to have kept up the circulation of the country, had not the Bank, while this process was going on, had to re-issue a part of that money in the purchase of the billion, that became necessary when preparing for the resumption of cash payments, but which was nevertheless at the moment, of little use to the country, as the billion so purchased lay at the time perfectly useless, and locked up in the treasury of the Bank. When he took a retrospective view of these transactions, he could not refrain from expressing a doubt, whether any country had ever before passed through so severe an ordeal with such firmness, credit, and stability, or ever made such sacrifices for the preservation of its good faith, and the entire restoration of its metallic currency. (hear, hear.) They were now enjoying the benefit arising from these wise and provident regulations which had been carried into effect in the midst of the greatest difficulties. They now saw the Bank beginning to resume its cash payments, and returning to a system which it was confidently trusted would be permanent. They looked forward to no further restriction upon their circulation, and every thing was reasonably enough expected for the future to take its natural and undeviating course. Already had the wholesome operation of these changes diffused life and vigour in those parts of the country where such beneficial results were not, a few months ago, at all anticipated. The funds were feeling the benefits of this amelioration, and they gave a fresh stimulus to the return of every other species of property. Whilst the funds were indicative of this improved confidence in the financial situation of the country, money was more easily found in other channels, and flowed for the encouragement of industry in a rapid course. (hear, hear, hear.) In 1816 and 1817, much distress was experienced similar to that which had recently been the subject of complaint. A general stagnation of trade was alleged to exist, an entire want of demand for different commodities, and a scarcity of the circulating medium. What was the effect of the rise in the funds which followed in the years 1817 and 1818? That rise was not so permanent in its nature, as he trusted the present would be found to prove. We had then to undergo that great change in our currency which was now in progress, and to the consequences of which every one was then looking with alarm. They might now hope from the measures which had been adopted, that if the advance of the country was more tardy than could be wished, that there was all the less danger of our going back to that state of distress from which we were recovering. If we should have no new enemy to encounter, fluctuations might be expected, occasional misfortunes would be experienced, and partial changes would take place in the value of property; but there were no grounds for anticipating a recurrence of calamity on a scale so general as that which seemed to threaten the nation before the great measure to which he had alluded had been adopted by the wisdom of Parliament. But reverting to the effect produced by the rapid rise of the Funds in 1817, he could not but remember that on an occasion similar to the present he had congratulated the House on the Three per Cents, having



# PARLIAMENTARY.

—589—

rised to Seventy-four. The price had now for some days been above Seventy-four. Shortly after the period to which he had referred, they rose to above Eighty, and the consequence was, the most sudden revival of the industry of the country that had ever been witnessed. So that of late they had been accustomed to look back to the year 1818 as to a year of comparative prosperity. It was with pleasure that he directed the attention of the House to the change which had lately taken place, as nothing could more distinctly indicate the immense inherent resources, and the solid means which the country possessed. We have got over the difficulty arising from the state of our currency, certainly not without great inconvenience and suffering, but there were grounds for believing that much of that suffering proceeded from other causes. For it was remarkable that similar distress had been experienced in most of the countries of Europe, and in a more extraordinary degree in the United States of America, where no such system as ours had been in operation to any considerable extent.—It was therefore clear that some great and more general cause produced that wide-spreading distress that had been experienced. The attention of the House would soon be more particularly called to this subject, and he was therefore unwilling to detain them upon it now. He would only say that a more striking illustration of the great internal resources of this Country could hardly be afforded, than was supplied by that change to which he had called their attention. He could not but notice, with satisfaction the accumulation of capital which might be remarked among the lower classes. The wise measures adopted by Parliament for establishing depositories for small savings had been attended with the most gratifying results, and furnished a curious barometer of the internal state of the country. Accounts which had been presented to Parliament, and to which he wished to call the attention of the House, proved that these savings had progressively increased in every month up to the 5th of last April. The increase had in almost every instance been gradual and progressive. And at the latest period, a greater progressive increase appeared to have taken place than had been previously known. Since the period he had named, since the 5th of April from 19,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* per week had regularly been paid into the Bank of England upon account of Saving Banks. When this was considered, from the view which it gave of the condition of the middling and of the lower classes—from the indications which it presented of the industry and wealth of the country—it might safely be assumed that there never was a period which furnished a more gratifying display of the safety of the country, and the stability of its resources. He felt the more satisfaction in pointing out these things to the consideration of the House; as individuals who were only in the habit of viewing public affairs through the medium of particular prejudices, were accustomed to describe the country as exhausted, enervated, crippled in its resources, and unable to make those exertions which particular circumstances might call for. Such ideas were erroneous. It was not true that other nations had gained advantages over us. (*hear, hear.*) There never was a period when greater strides were making by the country to repair its financial concerns, and establish them upon a foundation of as permanent durability as the precautions of human foresight were capable of comprehending. The Right Hon. Gentleman concluded by observing, that there was no country in Europe which was comparatively so little in debt, after the close of so severe, protracted, and so arduous a struggle. The war had, it was true, entailed difficulties on the country; but he was confident that those difficulties would be overcome by the zeal and energies of the people, which had already surmounted difficulties of yet greater magnitude. (*hear.*) He trusted that, in accomplishing this desirable end, every man would do his utmost to support the fame which England had acquired, and act as became a Member of this Great Empire. (*loud cheering.*) The Right Honorable Gentleman then moved, "That it is the opinion of this Committee that a sum, not exceeding 13,000,000*l.* be raised by annuities on the Sinking Fund, 12,500,000*l.* for Great Britain, and 500,000*l.* for Ireland, for the service of the year 1821."

Mr. MABERLY wished, before he proceeded to make any observations on the statement of the Right Hon. Gentleman to ask one or two questions. In the first place, the surplus of the Ways and Means of 1820, comprising both money paid on account, and that arising from the actual produce of the duties, appeared, from the statement which had been distributed, to amount to 81,630*l.* The difference, however, between the estimate for the year 1820 and the sum raised was considerably more. By another item he observed, that the miscellaneous services for 1820, were charged at 2,441,100*l.*, whereas only 2,100,000*l.* had been voted for them. These two points required explanation.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed, with respect to the first point, that a part of the overplus had been carried to the Consolidated Fund, and the remainder, by an Act of Parliament of the present year, had been made applicable to the Supply of the year. With respect to the miscellaneous services, it was true that only 2,100,000*l.* was charged for them in the Budget of last year; but about 300,000*l.* had been previously voted for the service, he believed, of the Militia; but he was not quite sure whether it was under that head.

Mr. MABERLY observed, that he had wished the explanation, as the arrears appeared to be somewhat about 500,000*l.* The principal observations which he meant to make on the statement of the Ways and Means would go chiefly to the Supplies; he had no objection except to the Supplies. In an early part of the Session he had informed the House how a saving could be made in these, and submitted a Resolution to that effect, but was very sorry that Government would not agree to make so small a saving as that which he proposed, although the Right Honourable Gentleman took great credit to himself for the reductions which had been made, and which were by no means proportioned to the power which he had of economising the public resources.—He would now state what the real financial state of the country was, and contrast it with what it might be; he would, therefore, now state the interest of the Funded and Unfunded Debt, &c. and he reckoned 48,328,707*l.* as the amount of the interest of those debts, including the Dutch and Russian Loans, the Irish Annuities, and the Arrears of the Consolidated Fund, up to the 5th of January, 1821. This was a debt which must be provided for, unless we shewed ourselves to be equally unjust and ungenerous (*hear.*). It was borrowed on specific terms, and a certain sum was appropriated as a Sinking Fund to make a payment of five per cent. on which, by a certain reduction, there might be a saving of 1,500,000*l.* He wished here to say a few words on the justice of marking out the debt as an object of taxation. Several Honourable Members had thrown out the idea that the only means of extricating the country from its present difficulties was to tax this species of property, but the public creditors had embarked their property in this way, to assist the country in its greatest exigencies; they had also made great sacrifices already, and it was too much to call upon them for more. They were to have had 1 per cent. on all loans existing in 1792, and 1 per cent. on all loans contracted since: but that was given up, according to the wish of Government.—The Sinking Fund was also taken away, and what was this but taking his property from the stockholder, in as much as it was his pledged security. Yet the stockholder did not resist, and no Petitions from him were laid on the table to call for the interference of the strong arm of Parliament, although the sacrifice which he made amounted to one-sixth of the expenditure. He, (Mr. Maberly), was aware that there could not be any saving upon the whole sum in the shape of taxes, but a large saving might be made on the remaining 27 millions. If no saving was made in the supplies for the Army, Navy, Ordnance, &c. and the charges on the Consolidated Fund for the maintenance of the Courts &c. yet he contended that in the payments out of the gross revenue, a large saving might be made. He regretted that Ministers had however determined that in this respect no saving should be made. The Honourable Member then adverted to the Resolutions of the Finance Committee, which recommended the annual account not to exceed 17,350,000*l.*, yet in the following years it was exceeded by considerable sums: and in the year 1821, by no less a sum than 671,000*l.* That Committee had taken a fair and dispassionate view of the matter, yet the expenditure had been since considerably increased. He was aware that it would be said this increase of expenditure was owing to the turbulence of the times; but he believed the cause stated not to be a justifiable one. The Government had passed laws very strong, and which interfered essentially with the liberty of the subject, and had made enactments permanent which should have been, like the events which called for them, temporary. After having those laws to put down the spirit of disturbance that was said to exist, it was not right for Ministers to charge the people with such heavy expenses, and thus mulct their property as severely as their liberties. He (Mr. M.) had expected that something like a reduction of 10,000 men in the Army and 4,000 in the Navy would have been proposed, but no such thing. When he had formerly suggested a plan of economy, the previous question was moved upon it although the Government itself had come down with an extremely strong resolution of economy in 1819, as was notorious to every body, as well as their imposition of three millions of fresh taxes. Notwithstanding such plausible professions, however, there was now an expenditure of about 1,900,000*l.* more than ought to be. He knew, as he had stated before, that the reason given was the state of the times; but he hoped this would be a warning to the House, if ever again dangers should be magnified, for the purpose of taking money out of the pockets of the people. The Right Hon. Gent. had spoken of the Sinking Fund of 1820; he did not mean to follow him over his detailed account, partly truth and partly fiction as it was, but he should first state the Consolidated Fund, and bring down the balance, whether surplus or deficiency, then take the supplies for the year, then the annual duties voted, if they exceeded three millions over the Consolidated Fund, and 2,500,000*l.* of Excise Duties. These would make up the actual revenue; he believed there was nothing more except the Lottery and Old Stores. Then there was the nominal Sinking Fund for both countries, and thus the whole Revenue, contrasted with the expenditure, should leave a balance; and he would propose a motion, for the purpose of getting what merchants called a Balance Sheet. He believed the Sinking Fund of last year to be 2,200,000*l.* and on the interest of Exchequer Bills, there was a much larger sum due than ever was heard of before. With respect to the latter, there ought to be a debt and credit account to come at the real

amount. Now the outstanding interest was stated to be four or five hundred thousand pounds, but they knew nothing about it; it might be a million for what they could tell. There was also a large sum due to the Bank, and he should think it necessary to move for an account of all these matters. Whatever plan of economy might be acted on, he thought a Sinking Fund essential to public credit; but whether, on the present principle, or on any other, was another question; it should be, however, a security independent of the fluctuations of times and seasons. He then observed that Mr. Pitt, in 1792, reviewed the finances of the country and appointed a sum for a sinking fund upon the loans; but he went further, and set apart a sum for the relief of taxation. If Government carried the latter principle effectually into practice, they would conciliate the people, at the same time that they supported the public credit. If they made a saving by economy, which would go to the repeal of taxation, the public mind would be tranquillised, because the people would be satisfied, and there would be no need of a large standing army. He repeated that a repeal of a part of the national burdens, was the only way to make the people satisfied with the Government. They were now very well satisfied with the Constitution, but not equally so with the executive Government.—Whatever was said and done in that House necessarily went abroad; and the amount of supplies voted there excited discontent among the people. Whoever administered public affairs, they must pursue the plan of removing a part of the public burdens, or they never could receive the support and affections of the nation. He was far from taking a gloomy view of the state of the country; a country that could supply 62,000,000*l.* of revenue, was far from being in the last state of depression. Its capital had increased in 26 years upwards of 600,000,000*l.* all funded British capital; for there was very little foreign; besides a large sum was deposited in the soil, and in the construction of public works. Bridges were built, roads and canals made, villages and large cities erected, and this metropolis had increased beyond every thing; Scotland had within that period become almost a new kingdom, and Ireland was greatly improved. Though the accumulation of profits was now diminished, only a part was taken away; there was still a progressive improvement in the country, and a high state of affluence, which only wanted the directing power of a wise Executive Government. There were two principles which a judicious Administration should always act upon—to conciliate the people, and to practise economy. He would only add, that Government should keep faith with the public creditor; and, above all, check every attempt at innovation by a tax upon one species of property above another. In fact, the same remedy would apply to the general interests of the country, that a Noble Lord in another place stated to be applicable to its commercial interests—time. Time would do a great deal; and the agricultural interests would be relieved if tenants were allowed to cultivate the soil to advantage, by a reduction of the price of labour and a reduction of taxation.

Mr. ASTELL said, he did not mean to do away with the satisfaction which the statement of the Right Hon. Gentleman (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had given to the House; but he wished to make a few observations on the relative situation of the Government and the East India Company. A debt had been contracted by the former in 1793, a large balance of which was now due to the East India Company and he heard with astonishment the statement of the Right Hon. Gentleman with respect to it. The East India Company lent the Island of St. Helena to Government for the safe custody of Buonaparte, on the express condition that all expenses were to fall on Government. The expenses paid by the East India Company amounted to between two and three hundred thousand pounds. He contended that the East India Company had as much right to the repayment of this debt, as the public creditor had to any sum advanced by him. In January last they had been promised that half a million would have been paid in May, and the remainder in July, but this had not been done, and any man who had a feeling of justice was called upon to support a claim so indisputably established.

Mr. CALCRAFT observed, that he could not participate in the general satisfaction with which the House appeared to have received the statement of the Right Honourable Gentleman opposite; nor could he participate in the satisfaction of his Honourable Friend (Mr. Maberly) on account of the large revenue raised upon the people. For with our Code of Excise Laws, with the Navy and Army employed here and in Ireland to enforce the observance of those laws, and with the other means taken to collect revenue, was it a matter of surprise that Government could extract from the population any given sum? Was it matter of satisfaction, that out of all the money collected there were 6,000,000*l.* applicable to the current service of the year? For if we kept faith with the public creditor, we would not be able to apply any more than this sum to the public service this year. He would be glad to know what would be said of a man in private life, who out of an estate of 60,000*l.* a year, had so mortgaged it as to leave only 6,000*l.* a year for his family expenses? The revenue, it was true, was collected, but it was collected to the distress of the people. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said much about Savings Banks to shew the prosperous

state of the lower classes, but when he (Mr. C.) knew that in every parish numbers of people were out of employment, and wages paid out of the Poor's Rates, no inference drawn from the Savings Banks could make him believe that the lower classes were benefited by the present system. He did not wish to put any false colouring on the prosperity or adversity of the country, but he wished them not to estimate too lightly the excessive burdens of the people. They could only be benefited by a relief from taxation. He denied that the public debt formed any part of the capital of the country, as had been stated by his Honourable Friend (Mr. Maberly.) The Honourable Member, after some further remarks, observed, that so far from the collection of the Revenue being a subject of general satisfaction, they should all put their shoulders to the wheel, and try how they could lighten the debt, which, notwithstanding what was said by the Gentlemen on the Treasury Benches, pressed most heavily on the nation.

Sir J. NEWPORT stated, that with respect to his part of the country, revenue had decreased, in proportion to the increase of taxation. For the last few years the taxes had been augmented, but what had been the result? In 1815 the revenue had been 5,480,000*l.*, and in the last year only 3,700,000*l.*, which was near 700,000*l.* less than before the imposition of 4,000,000*l.* of fresh taxes. But it was the natural effect of taxes raised upon capital to annihilate revenue. He had some time ago stated, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer for Ireland was proceeding rapidly to increase the taxes in that country, that an augmented taxation would produce a diminished revenue. He then entered into the following details, in order to prove his argument, with respect to the several articles which have within the last few years been made the subject of increased taxation in Ireland:—Tobacco, Custom Duty—1804, at 8*d.*, 196,053*l.*—1814, at 9*d.*, 203,945*l.*—1820, at 1*s.*, 129,120*l.* Tobacco, Excise Duty—1813, at 1*s.* 7*d.*, 553,399*l.*—1820, at 8*s.*, 419,380*l.*—1821, at 4*d.*, 387,316*l.* Malt—1809, at 10*s.* 40*s.*, 406*l.*—1819, at 14*s.* 393,962*l.*—1820, at 14*s.* 333,201*l.* Spirits, Home made—1807, at 4*s.*, per gallon, 1,284,000*l.*—1819, at 6*s.* 0*d.* per gallon, 1,007,000*l.*—1820, at ditto, 920,192*l.* Rum—Average of 3 years at 6*s.* 8*d.*, 297,777*l.*—of 5 years at 8*s.* 1*d.*, 260,046*l.*—of 7 years, at 10*s.* 207,141*l.* Portugal Wine—in 1800, at 40*l.* per ton, 224,149*l.*—1812, at 70*l.* per ditto, 150,623*l.*—1819, at 90*l.* per ditto, 107,801*l.*—1820, at ditto, 90,489*l.* French Wine—Average of three years at 59*l.* 12*s.* 43,006*l.*—Ditto of 5 years, at 87*l.* 35,074*l.*—Ditto of last 7 years, at 135*l.* 25,956*l.* Tea at 71*l.* 14*s.* per cent. on lower, and 84*l.* 14*s.* on higher teas, in 1808, 563,698*l.*—at 92 per cent., in 1812, 617,899*l.*—at 96 per cent. on higher, and 100 on lower, in 1820, 432,268*l.*—Ditto at 96 per cent. and 100 per cent., 308,017*l.* Brandy—Average of first three years after the Union, at 7*s.* 3*d.*, 77,715*l.*—Ditto of last years, at 13*s.* 9*d.* 5,077*l.*—The Hon. Baronet concluded by expressing his surprise that none of those agricultural gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, who had on other occasions spoken so much of agricultural distress, had come forward to point out the real causes by which that distress was produced, and the inability of the people to support such an enormous system of taxation.

Mr. RICARDO said, the Chancellor of the Exchequer always gave a most flattering account of the state of the country. Last Session he had declared that the funds which would be applicable to the expenditure of the present year would be much greater than what he had now stated them to be. He had stated that the addition to the Sinking Fund would have been 1,700,000*l.* instead of 950,000*l.*, had it not been for the additional interest on Exchequer Bills. He (Mr. Ricardo) wished to know whether the interest of those Exchequer bills had not been provided for in the preceding Session? He thought a sum was voted for that purpose, because he took occasion, on the last budget, to remind the Right Honourable Gentleman that he had no provision whatever for the interest on the Exchequer debt; and he stated in answer that provision had already been made out of former votes. If that were the case, he must place this payment against certain debts which should be liquidated in the present year, and not against that which fairly belonged to the budget of former years. From the papers which were in the hands of Members, it appeared that the account might be correctly stated thus:—

By the annual accounts, the amount of the unfunded debt appeared to be, .....	£ 17,292,544
There were funded, during the last year .....	7,000,000
Exchequer bills, which, added to the former amount, gave a total of .....	24,292,544

There was a deficiency arising on the Consolidated Fund, which the Right Honourable Gentleman had entirely left out of the view which he had taken in the statement made by him to the committee. That deficiency amounted to 517,000*l.* during the present year, and this being added to the enormous deficiency, which existed before, might be stated, in fact at 8,600,000*l.* Here he could not help remarking that these accounts from the way in which they were made up did not give the Committee that correct view of the state of the finances which it was desirable that it should be furnished with. If he wished to consult them for information, he could find no part from which he could clearly discover



Wednesday, October 24, 1821.

—591—

what the annual deficiency upon the consolidated Fund really was. A paper having been moved for upon this subject by an Hon. Gentleman some time since, he was enabled to ascertain that on the year ending the 5th Jan. 1821, that deficiency was £8,950,327 and in the year ending 5th Jan. 1820 8,331,000 Taking the two amounts together, the difference between the

sum was 429,327 Now this being the case what was the reason that in the annual printed accounts which were delivered to the House the amount of the deficiency upon the consolidated fund for the very same period, that is, from the 5th of January, 1820, to the 5th of January, 1821, was stated at £517,232 instead of 489,387 making a difference between those accounts and the return which he spoke of 87,903

He did not mention this difference upon account of the magnitude of the sum, but for the purpose of showing how little reliance could be placed on these public accounts, under their present shape. It certainly did appear to him, that two accounts made up for the same period ought to yield the same results. But to return to the matter of these accounts. It seemed that during the last year we had contracted loans to the amount of £24,292,544 To which must be added for the deficiency upon the consolidated fund, as stated by the Right Honourable Gentleman 517,232

Making together 24,809,776 Against this authority they must put that part of the debt which had been paid off. It must be shown how much money had been devoted to that purpose; and then, whatever balance appeared, by so much had our debt increased or decreased.

We had a Sinking Fund last year, of 17,510,000 The amount of Treasury Bills paid off was 2,000,000

The difference between the amount of Exchequer Bills upon the 5th of January, 1820, and the 5th of January, 1821, was 5,934,928

So that we had devoted, in truth, to the payment of the National Debt, whether funded or unfunded, during the current year, the sum of 25,444,928

And reckoning, as he did, the amount of the debt, contracted to be, during the same period 24,809,776

The difference would be £635,152

The actual amount, therefore, of difference, between the debt on the 5th January, 1820, and the debt on the 5th January, 1821, did appear to be no more than £635,152, although the Right Honourable Gentleman, by some other species of calculation, made it amount to 950,000. The House was told by the Right Honourable Gentleman, that there would be a Sinking Fund next year of 4,000,000. Now: assuming the Revenue for the current year to be as stated by the Right Honourable Gentleman, and supposing that there should be such a Sinking Fund, it was to be remembered that the Right Hon. Gentleman had included in his calculation a sum of 500,000, which he said he was to receive from France, and which was applicable towards the payment of the National Debt during the present year. But if this 500,000, was so applicable during the present year, it would not be (it was evident) in the next, or any future year. He (Mr. Ricardo) wished to know what funds could be made of general and permanent application in this way; and therefore it was of little avail to bring forward such a sum as in such statement. He took it that the Sinking Fund would really amount to £2,509,000 And the Sinking Fund on Exchequer Bills, to 290,000 making the Sinking Fund 3,009,000 instead of 4,000,000, as estimated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He certainly wished, however, that the event might turn out according to the statement of the Right Hon. Gent. But he did not think that the House or the country had much reason to congratulate themselves, when it appeared, that all which the Right Hon. Gentleman had to tell them was, that the Revenue in future years would be the same as in this. He (Mr. Ricardo) confessed that he was one of those who really thought a Sinking Fund very useless (hear, hear, hear); he did not mean to say that he was not favourable to such a fund, in the abstract; upon the principle of the thing there could be hardly any doubt; but really after the experience which they had had, he did not hope to see that principle acted upon. He did not hope that it would ever be made applicable to the reduction of the National debt. Those who thought it would be, had much more confidence in his Majesty's Ministers, and in the House itself, than he had. (hear, hear.) The Hon. Gentleman then briefly recapitulated the history of this fund, from the time of Sir Robert Walpole. When Mr. Pitt came into power, he was desirous of establishing a Sinking Fund upon the safest and most permanent principles so as to secure it from all intermeddling of Ministers, and in order that no rapacious hands might ever seize it (hear.) He (Mr. Ricardo) would ask

what had now become of this Sinking Fund, and where were all those boasted securities? When the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite first took 7,000,000, from the Sinking Fund, he stated it to be for the relief of the stock-holder, and he had talked not as if he apprehended that there would be any poverty, but as if he thought we should be overwhelmed and incumbered with riches. The Right Honourable Gentleman had, on that occasion, expressed his fears of danger from the accumulation of capital. If, however, the Right Hon. Gentleman had considered the true principles of capital, and had known that no accumulation of capital could possibly be mischievous, he would not have been led into such a declaration. He begged leave to read a passage from a pamphlet written by another Right Honourable Gentleman opposite. (Mr. Ricardo read the passage he alluded to, which reprobated any departure from the system established by Mr. Pitt, with respect to the Sinking Fund.) In every word of that passage, he (Mr. Ricardo) entirely acquiesced. What had been done with respect to the Sinking Fund, was certainly a gross violation of faith to the public creditor. The open and ostensible violation of the Sinking Fund, he had already described; the secret and actual violation of it was still more destructive. The Right Hon. Gentleman had laid out all the Sinking Fund—nay, he had laid out more than all, for he had imposed three millions of taxes, which exceeded the amount of the nominal Sinking Fund. After that, what confidence could he repose in any declaration of the future application of that fund? He (Mr. Ricardo) said therefore—let the Sinking Fund remain in the pockets of the people, and if a war, or any other emergency, should require an increase of income, let the necessity be then met by taxation. Ministers professed that they wished for a Sinking Fund to make the nation respectable in the eyes of any future enemies, by showing a preparation to go to war if necessary. His answer was, that that was not the object of the Sinking Fund, and that it ought to be applied strictly to its legitimate purpose—the liquidation of the national debt. He begged leave to read a passage from the speech of Mr. Pitt on the first establishment of the Sinking Fund, it was to the following effect:—“to recommend that a Sinking Fund of a million a year should be allowed to accumulate; to state that in twenty-eight years that Fund would amount to four millions a year; to declare that that ought not to be broken in upon, for that such a violation had been the bane of former efforts of a similar kind; and that to prevent a recurrence of that evil, the million so set aside should be vested by Act of Parliament in Commissioners, to be applied quarterly in the purchase of stock, which would have the effect eventually of relieving the country from the burdens with which it was struggling, as being so vested in Commissioners it could not be taken by stealth, and as it was not probable it would be touched by any Act of Parliament, it not being probable that any Minister would have the confidence to come to the House and propose such an Act.” (hear, hear.) After this declaration of Mr. Pitt's, and after what the House had since seen, what confidence could they place in any future application of that fund? He was prepared therefore, if the repeal should be proposed of any tax, the amount of which came within the amount of what was called the Sinking Fund, to vote for that repeal. (hear, hear.) He was convinced that if no such fund had ever existed, the country would not have been so deeply in debt as it was at that moment; for the people agreed to the periodical burdens which for so many years were imposed upon them, in the confident expectation that the Sinking Fund would afford them relief—an expectation in which they had been wholly disappointed. With respect to Savings Banks, he approved of them, and considered them highly useful. A plan had lately been proposed by a Gentleman he believed, of the name of Woodruff, grounding an annuity scheme on the Savings Banks, which plan was, in his opinion, deserving of general attention.—According to this plan, if a father paid a small sum on the birth of a child, the accumulation, connected with the uncertainty of life, would furnish a respectable annuity for him at an advanced age. If 51. or 101. were paid in, and allowed to remain 14 or 16 years, the owners of that sum consenting to receive only 3 per cent. instead of 41. per cent. (the interest paid by the Savings Banks), it would also furnish a tolerable provision for him.—The Hon. Gentleman then adverted to what had fallen from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, relative to the different effects of paying a debt to the Bank of England, and a debt in any other quarter. In the former case it was said that the notes did not come into public circulation; but it was the amount only of circulation which it was material to look at; and it made little difference to the public from whence it came.

Mr. LOCKHART observed, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had talked about the magnanimity and patience and endurance with which the national burdens had been sustained, was entitled to no credit on that account; for all the praise and credit were upon one side, and that was not his. The Right Honourable Gentleman had contended that the expenditure last year was 70 millions, and this year only 68. This was his statement by figures; but what was the expenditure if considered with reference to substances? if measured by the price of corn, or labour, or any of the products of the earth? He (Mr. Lockhart) maintained, that far from being

less, it would be found in that view to be nearly double. As to the proposition of imposing new taxes, in any case, he hoped the House would never consent to it.

Mr. RICARDO, in explanation, said, that the Hon. Member (Mr. Lockhart) had quite mistaken him, in supposing that he was desirous to have new taxes imposed.

Mr. MABERLY apprehended that he also had been misunderstood by the Hon. Gentleman.

Sir H. PARNELL observed, that if they compared the revenue since the imposition of the 3,000,000*l.* of new taxes, with what it was before, they would find that it had decreased by a sum of 700,000*l.*

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in explanation, said that the Hon. Member for Abingdon (Mr. Maberly) had termed many of his statements fictitious. Now, he should be glad to have them pointed out, and he would endeavour to show him that they were perfectly consonant with the returns before the House.

Mr. HUME began by adverting to the Report of the Finance Committee of 1817, by which it was recommended that these estimates should never for the future exceed the sum therein specified, which was some where about 17,550,000*l.* In that very year, however, the votes of supply were in effect 18,001,300*l.* The Honourable Gentleman recapitulated their amount in succeeding years, and observed, that their present amount of 18,021,000*l.* was much upon the scale of 1817. The statements of the Honourable Member for Abingdon had been by no means answered by the Right Honourable Gentleman. The expense of the collection of the revenue, so far from being lessened by the exertions of the same Honourable Member and others, had of late years gone on increasing; and he held in his hand a paper, showing that in Scotland they had increased in the following proportion:—

In 1803, 1806, and 1807, they were from 4 to 4½ per cent.

In 1817 they were 7 per cent.

In 1818 ——— 7½ per cent.

In 1820 ——— 8 per cent.

In 1821 ——— 8½ per cent,

which showed that in a few years the charge was nearly doubled. To this subject he thought great attention was due; for he was satisfied that, by a strict attention to economy in this branch of our expenditure, a saving of 140,000*l.* might be made to the country.—When the Committee considered the immense sum of 18 millions which the country was now called upon to pay, and that this sum was nearly equal to 24 millions in the former state of the currency, he thought there did not exist such grounds of congratulation as the Right Hon. Gentlemen seemed to imagine. The Hon. Member next alluded to the East India Company, and condemned the system of letting it run on. He had before, in another place, expressed his opinion to the Directors, that if they suffered the Government to continue in their debt, it would at last be said that nothing was due to them; and this they had now begun to find was the case. To this circumstance it was owing that there were no detailed accounts of the expenses incurred for the detention of Buonaparte at St. Helena, which had (as we understood) already cost the country two millions. He hoped, however, that what had that night fallen from the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be the means of producing some explanation on this subject.

Mr. ELLICE said he could not avoid taking this opportunity of stating what he had before so often expressed—that it was a very absurd and unnecessary expenditure to go through the farce of borrowing a certain sum from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, or in other words taking away part of the Sinking Fund, when the same object might be answered by cancelling so much of the debt. The only object he could see in it was that of rendering accounts, that might be simplified, more complicated. He merely mentioned this at present, but it was his intention to bring the subject under consideration in the next Session of Parliament. As to the flourishing state of the revenue, he admitted that the revenue had exceeded his expectations, and he only regretted that a proper reduction of our expenditure had not taken place, which would have afforded a no less pleasing subject of congratulation.

The first resolution was now put and agreed to.

On the second resolution being proposed,

Mr. HUME said that he perceived among the Ways and Means, a sum of 165,000*l.* from the sale of Old Stores, which he presumed were naval stores. Now he wished to know why the same mode was not adopted with respect to the ordnance stores.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made one or two observations in reply but they could not be distinctly heard in the gallery.

Mr. ELLICE said he saw credit taken only for 165,000*l.* for produce of lottery. He wished to know whether it had produced no more.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (as well as we could collect) said that that was not all, but it was all that had been yet received.

Mr. ELLICE said that his objection to the system of the Lottery as grossly immoral was so strong, that when the resolution for that came to be proposed he would take the sense of the House upon it.

The resolution was now put and carried,

The next resolution was for raising the sum of 200,050*l.* by the sale of 60,000 lottery tickets.

Mr. BERNAL said he could not consent to the raising of any sum by means which were so immoral in their tendency as the lottery; and he was anxious that the present time should be embraced for getting rid of that mode of taxation, as, according to the admission of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it had ceased to be so profitable as heretofore. In the last year it was calculated to produce 240,000*l.* but now it was only expected to produce 200,000*l.* As it at length turned out to be nearly a losing game, he thought that Ministers might abolish it, and it was better to do it with a good grace than to wait till it became wholly unprofitable.

Mr. H. G. BENNET observed, that according to the statement of the Rt. Hon. Gent. we were to have so large a surplus next year, that there could be no necessity for the continuation of this odious immoral tax. He could suppose that if a paramount necessity existed, if there were no other way of getting money, this would constitute a sufficient ground with a Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose great business seemed to be to dip his hands into the pockets of the public. But he considered that there was no necessity for still permitting what must be a violation of public morals. To the vote for building additional churches, he (Mr. H. G. Bennet) had given his assent, though he confessed he saw no necessity for them; but if the Right Hon. Gent. were to propose the building of as many more, and fill them with good preachers, who inculcated the soundest principles, the good which they would be likely to produce would not counter-balance the evils arising from the continuance of lotteries. Indeed he was surprised that the Right Hon. Gentleman did not carry his scheme of taxing vice much farther, and follow the examples of a bishop of Winchester who had raised a tax from licensing stews. He (Mr. Bennet) saw no reason why a tax should not be laid on one vice as well as on another, for the principle was the same. In a neighbouring country they derived a revenue from both sources; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not seem indisposed to take a lesson from the pious Bourbons.

Mr. CRIPPS defended the Lottery, as a less objectionable mode of taxation than many taxes which already existed, and he was satisfied that the abolition of any portion to the same amount of any other tax would be more acceptable to the public. If the Lottery were withdrawn, there could be no doubt that the same or a greater amount of money would be expended by the people in gambling of another description.

Mr. W. SMITH said, that any gentleman who had been at Paris, and passed through the Palais Royal, might have seen gaming, and other still more immoral practices carried on, from all of which a revenue was derived to the Government; and the same arguments for continuing the Lottery would be equally applicable to them.

Mr. GIPPS also opposed the system of lotteries. If the practice were once admitted to be bad, he saw no reason why it should be continued; and he maintained that it was no argument in support of them to say, that if the people did not gamble their money in that manner, they would expend it in some other equally objectionable.

The Committee then divided.—

For the Resolution, 123 | Against it, 65 | Majority 58.

On being re-admitted to the gallery, we found the Chairman putting the question on some other Resolutions, which were agreed to without any observation. The House then resumed, and the Report was ordered to be received on Monday.

On the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was ordered, that the House, at its rising, do adjourn to Monday.

### Europe Deaths.

On the 23d of May, in Crimscoot-street, Bermondsey, Mrs. Iselin, wife of Mr. J. J. Iselin, and daughter of the late Mr. John Pohlman.

On the 23d of May, Mrs. Kaye, wife of Joseph Kaye, Esq., of New Bank-buildings, and Wandsworth-common.

On the 22d of May, in the 25th year of her age, Mary, the eldest daughter of Robert Gibson, Esq. of Upper Tooting.

On the 8th of May, John Ward Straten, Esq., at Lisnawilly, Ireland, aged 57.

On the 21st of May, Wm. Browne Brotherton, Esq., aged 67.

On the 23d of May, Thomas Birch, Esq., of Bond-street, banker, aged 78.

On Monday, the 21st of May, in New Norfolk-street, Park-lane, Mrs. Anne Hoare.

On the 19th of May, Mrs. Sarah Dobey, 16, Sloane-square, Sloane-street.



# ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—593—

## Locusts,

"The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble; the sun and the moon shall be dark."—JOEL 2, 10.

Thine are these hosts, when, in thy wrath, O Lord!  
High in the obscure heavens innumerable,  
The legion'd swarms with chariot-sounding yell  
Or noise of roaring flames, at thy dread word  
Bring devastating judgment. The keen sword  
Ominous in the sky doth not reveal  
With dubious boding which no tongue may tell,  
Terror so dark, as when that winged horde  
Of rushing flight, falls like a bloody rain,  
Colouring the blessed sun-light. Mosque and tomb,  
And pale-wash'd spire, went on the distant plain  
To gleam magnificent, and all the bloom  
Of branching forests sink in fearful gloom,  
Red, like the clouds above that show'r the living stain.

Calcutta, October 20, 1821.

CYTHERON.

The above lines were suggested by reading the following paragraph from a deservedly popular work:—"A similar account has been given me by a friend of mine long resident in India. He relates that when at Poonah he was witness to an immense army of locusts which ravaged the Mahratta, and was supposed to come from Arabia (this if correct, is a strong proof of their power to pass the sea under favourable circumstances). The column they composed, my friend was informed, extended five hundred miles; and so compact was it, when on the wing, that like an eclipse it completely hid the sun, so that no shadow was cast by any object, and some lofty tombs, distant from his residence not more than two hundred yards, were rendered quite invisible. This was not the *Gryllus migratorius*, L. but a red species; which circumstance much increased the horror of the scene; for, clustering upon the trees after they had stripped them of their foliage, they imparted to them a sanguine hue. The peach was the last tree that they touched."—Kirby and Spence's *Introduction to Entomology*.

## Indian News.

No Arrivals from Sea having taken place since our last, we have given our first Sheet to the long and important Statement of the Budget for the year, at home, and occupy the remainder of our space with the following articles of Indian Intelligence, communicated to us chiefly in Private Letters from the Interior.

**Death of Major O'Shaughnessy.**—The Inquest and Examination of the various persons summoned to give Evidence on this affair, terminated yesterday, when after a laborious and patient investigation into the case, the charge of murder could not be directly brought home to the parties suspected. One of them, the Malatto Servant of the Deceased, was consigned to the Police for further examination, and the Coroner's Verdict was—*Died by Violence inflicted by some Person or Persons unknown.*

**Southern Mahratta Country, Sept. 18, 1821.**—The monsoon has been unusually mild above the Ghauts this year, but we regret to hear that the rains have not extended any distance inland; the consequence will be, unless there is a considerable fall of rain soon, which at this late period of the season can hardly be expected, that, there will be a failure in the crops, and the inhabitants will be greatly distressed; the price of grain, which generally begins to fall about this time of the year, is now daily rising; and the grain dealers in the Ceded Districts, from whom supplies might have been hoped, have increased their prices too, the rains having failed in those Districts also; but they have still a chance of a supply next month, when the Coromandel monsoon commences. Should these rains fail also, our Correspondents write that they dread a famine in those parts of the country; fortunately the rains below the Ghauts have been as abundant this year as usual.

**Change in the Uniform of the Infantry of the Royal Army.**—We are informed that a general change in the Military costume of the Infantry of the King's Army has been determined on, and is shortly to be ordered; upon the same plan as the late alteration in the Cavalry. Some of our Correspondents deeply regret, however, that the national colour of the British Army is about to

be changed! Blue it seems is the favorite colour, it is to be made up into Frock Coats, instead of the present Jackets; Cossack Trowsers, &c. instead of Grey Wellingtons; Cloaks instead of Great Coats; and Cocked Hats are to be worn instead of the Shackoes; Swords with a bend instead of the present Regulation ones; and Girdles instead of Sashes. These are the principal alterations in the dress that we hear of, in this branch of the Service. The Uniform for General and Staff Officers, is to undergo a complete revolution also, but the particulars have not reached us yet.

**Revolution at Goa, Sept. 16, 1821.**—For some time past the Inhabitants of the Portuguese Territory have been much agitated by the various and contradictory accounts from the Brazils and Portugal, of the changes in their Constitution; at length, intelligence from authentic sources having been received, of what was passing in other quarters of the world, and the Decree of the 24th of February last, by King Don John the VIth having become public, the Inhabitants and Troops selected five of the principal Inhabitants at Goa to form a Provisional Government. The Count De Rio Pardo was applied to, but having no authority to confirm the Constitution, he resigned his Government on the 16th instant, finding the general voice in favor of the new Constitution, and retired from his Palace at Pangim, to his Country Residence, at Cabo: where he now resides, we hear, with a Guard of Honor, furnished by the new Government, and enjoying full liberty; with the respect and esteem of those who formerly were subject to his Government, which appears to have been exercised with mildness and justice, by that amiable Nobleman. Thus, without bloodshed, has a complete change in the Government of the Portuguese possessions in the East, taken place. The Members of the New Government are—*President*.—Field Marshal Godinho.—*Members*.—General Correa, Chancellor Gomes, Judge Magalhães, Judge Seiton.—Perfect tranquillity reigned at Goa on the 17th instant, and every thing was going on as usual there.

**Bombay, Sept. 20, 1821.**—We understand that His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Charles Colville, accompanied by his personal Staff, is to leave Bombay towards the end of next month, on a tour through the Conquered Provinces, and that His Excellency will visit the Military Stations of Poona, Scroor, Sholapoor, Kulladgee, Badaumy, Darwar, Balgaum, Malwan, and Severndroog, before his return to this Presidency, where he will inspect the Bombay and Madras Troops, under his Command, in the Poona Division,—the Field Force in the Doab of the Southern Mahratta Country, and the Southern Konkán. We hear also that His Excellency intends visiting the Caves of Carlie, near Loghur, the ruins of the famed City of Beejapoor, the Falls of the Gutpurha, at Gocunck, and the City of Goa, in his tour.

**Meerut, October 10.**—The new (officiating) Magistrate, lately arrived at Meerut, bids fair soon, by his judicious arrangements and creditable zeal, to repress the robberies and depredations to which that part of the country has long and proverbially been subject.—It is said that he has discovered very flagitious corruption to have pervaded the whole Omlah and Native Police Offices, and that he has already considerably cleansed the Augean Stable. One of these sharks, a few days ago, threw himself into a well on perceiving the detection of his iniquities inevitable. For several days, the Deaths in Delhi from the Cholera Morbus averaged 50.

**Moorshedabad, October 16.**—Since my last, we have had variable squally weather and much rain; the 10th was cloudy with fresh breezes from the south-eastward.—The 11th was showery. At about 6, 45 P. M. a noise was heard at Maidahpore, resembling that of carriages passing over a drawbridge, which proved to be occasioned by a current of air that passed close to the eastward of the houses at that place, coming from the south-east and taking a north-westerly direction through the village of Hutternozheen, levelling every thing in its course. Five lives were lost by being buried under the mud walls and choppahs of their dwellings; large trees were stripped of their branches, leaving nothing but the bare trunk standing, and others torn up by the root. At Champahpookah it made a breach in the puckah wall

of His Highness the Nazim's garden, of about 25 or 30 feet, tore up the trees by the roots, and levelled nearly the whole of the puckah pillars and railing next the road, passed the Thannah, which stands opposite the Nawab's gate, when one of the Police Peons was killed by the falling of a choppahrs. It continued in a north-westerly direction towards Behramunge, destroying every thing in its passage, it there inclined a little more to the northward, passing Fendal Baugh, towards the City and the Cutterah. Destruction marked its track; many puckah buildings were injured. In the old Insane Hospital, where the Convicts are kept, who are employed on the roads, one of them was killed and several wounded. In the Cutterah it is reported that 22 lives were lost, the breadth of the current appears not to have exceeded 100 yards, and the devastation in that space can scarcely be conceived. At Gyzahbad it is said that a boat containing treasure with 4 or 5 sepoys on board, was upset, and every soul perished. I never recollect a similar occurrence during a residence of upwards of 21 years in India. Large boughs of trees and choppahrs were carried to a considerable distance. The distress of the Natives, who are sufferers, is truly pitiable; their little plantations, the produce of years of labour and attention, together with their dwellings levelled with the earth, their wives and children dog from under the ruins of mud-walls, in short their situation is easier felt than described. I have kept this open for several days or the purpose of ascertaining if there were any other casualties, but am happy to say no more have come to my knowledge.

Nusserabad, October 6, 1821.—Captain Tod announced on the 30th ultimo, to Colonel Maxwell, that all hopes of an adjustment through negotiation was at an end, and that nothing, therefore, remained to be done, but to attack the Maharao Kishore Sing. Accordingly, on the morning of the 1st of October, the combined Field Forces of Rajpootana and Neemach moved from their respective Encampments at 3, and half past 3, for the purpose of attacking him near Mungroul. He was drawn up, his Cavalry under the Maharao himself, on the right, and his Infantry extended  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile, in unconnected Detachments, on the left, covered by a Tank in front, a Nullah and broken ground in the rear. When within a quarter of a mile of this position, operations were directed to be suspended, Captain Tod, being anxious to give the Maharao one more opportunity for coming over. This attempt like all the others, failing, 6 pieces of our Artillery under Captain Campbell were advanced to within about 350 yards of the Maharao. Six Companies of the 2nd Battalion 5th Native Infantry, a Squadron of the 4th Cavalry, and four guns under Captain Tarrington were detached under Major Price, to attack the Enemy's left, and eventually to cut off his expected flight towards the South. The remainder of the Force drew upon the right of the Auxiliaries. The Artillery commenced the action, and it was admirably served throughout; but, the fire from Zalim Sing's guns unfortunately continued longer than was necessary, thereby preventing, for a length of time, either a charge, or a pursuit; at length, when they ceased, the whole Force advanced. Major Ridge, with 2 Squadrons, was a-head, and when in sight of the Maharao's Cavalry, he instantly formed, and charged in a most gallant style. In this attack two fine young men (Lieutenant and Adjutant Clerk and Lieutenant Read) fell, while setting a noble example of devotion and courage to their men. Major Ridge had his helmet split in two by a sabre, and had, besides, a horse killed under him, and his two Orderlies fell by his side at the moment of the fall of the Adjutant. Major Kennedy with the 5th Cavalry and the Horse Artillery under Captain Campbell, an excellent Officer, soon came up and drove the Enemy from their position, they were pursued for several hours, their loss is stated at about 500 in killed and wounded, their baggage was all captured, and their Camp was left standing, so little did they expect defeat. Phirtee Sing, Maharao's younger brother, was wounded, and taken Prisoner, and many Chiefs have fallen. Our loss may be reckoned at 13 killed and 23 wounded, the Enemy fled 8 koss without stopping, and are much dispersed. Lieutenant and Adjutant Clerk was a most superior young Officer, and much beloved by his Brother Officers and by the men of his Corps. Captain Hall, Assistant Quarter Master General, was with the Troops, and by

his admirable conduct of the department under him, and his zealous personal exertions, augmented those expectations in regard to his future eminence in the Service, which his habits and talents, as well as useful conduct in the field, had previously induced. The Cholera visited the Camp the day after the action.

### Coasting Trade of Western India.

No. III.

We now come to Kutch, the trade of which, since the putting down of the Pirates of Bate and Dwarka, has considerably increased; the principal Sea Port is Mandavi,\* from which place the greatest part of the Cotton is collected for exportation; about 80,000 Decerasor, 30,000 Candies is said to be the quantity usually exported, about 4,000 of this goes to Scind, 3,000 to Muscat, and about 5,000 to all other parts of Arabia and Africa, the remainder finds its way to Bombay, and from thence to China, with the exception of a few bales, about 500, which find a sale on the Malabar Coast.

Kutch is also a country of Ghee and Oil, if not of Milk and Honey, and if the art of governing had been understood might have been as fine as any under the sun; the men are stout and athletic, and many of them are good Sailors, the Merchants are clever, and well versed in every thing relating to commerce, and many of them rich. In no nation is the *Amor Patriæ* more strongly impressed; a labourer, that emigrates, goes back in a year or two, with his earnings and if possible remains in his native country. The major part of the Inhabitants are Hindoos, though the Government has been Mahomedan, until the Company took it into their own hands, a year or two ago.

Kutch has suffered much from pestilence and famine, and lately from Earthquakes, the consequence has been an increased emigration; not only Merchants, but labourers of all descriptions now resort to Bombay. Tentmakers and Tailors of all sorts are found among them, with Traders in Ghee, Oil, and Grain, and even Husbandmen with their families. Many of the small Boats that ply about the harbour, have been managed by a low tribe of Kutch Hindoos, for a great many years.

The Native vessel of Kutch is evidently the Dingee, though we find occasional deviation from them in the more Southern Batella, and Arab Bagalow and Dow.

As yet we have been speaking of the Hindoo population of Kutch, the Mahomedans being not so numerous are seldom found in any number out of their own country.

We mentioned in a former Paper that the Kutch Navigators were most esteemed, and this we find corroborated in a great degree, from very recent observation, and conversation with some of the best informed amongst them.

The Navigators, both Mahomedans and Hindoos, use the solar year, in all their nautical calculations, commencing at the Now Roze of the autumnal Equinox† and reckoning by days.

Both the Backstaff and Forestaff‡ are in general use among them; many of them are made at Kutch and Surat, but the one in question was of European make, and had the name of Martin James, 10th April, 1747, on it.

Many of the Mooolims, or Navigators, are intelligent, and have a smattering of Geography out of the line of their own observation. Thus Jewa, an old man of this description, the owner of the Backstaff before alluded to, could talk familiarly of Roum (Greece or Turkey) and of Mun Talou and Mun Sarwan, the Caspian and Black Sea.—*Bombay Gazette*.

\* Quere.—Is not this a word of Portuguese derivation?

† Thus they say, we sailed from Mocha on the 330th day; After the 220th day you must not expect to make a direct passage to Muscat or Mocha.

‡ See a description of both these Instruments in Hutton's Mathematical Dictionary. The latter is stated to have been invented by a Captain Davis, in or about the year 1599; a description of them is also inserted in the Mariner's Calendar for 1779, printed by Mount and Page, Tower-hill, by which it would appear that the use of Hadley's Quadrant was by no means general at that time.



## For Voyagers to the Cape.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

It may be useful to families, and to single persons, proceeding to the Cape of Good Hope for the benefit of their health, or even touching there on their way home, to learn that, according to the provisions of the Dutch Law (which is still in operation at that Colony, or was so recently), the Orphan Chamber will take possession of the effects of any person dying there intestate, will sell them by Auction at a considerable expence to those concerned, and will retain the assets until called for by the legal Claimant. Even when a Will is found, if the Executors (or one of them) therein named be not resident at the Cape, it is understood that the Orphan Chamber will take charge of effects, and proceed as above described.

Some of the inconveniences attendant upon this process are, that private papers will fall into the hands of persons for whose perusal they were not intended, and may be lost by accident; and that family trinkets, miniatures, keepsakes of friendship, presents for relatives at home, or other similar articles, will be disposed of by public vendue, and so become irrecoverable.

Timely application to an authorized local Notary Public will procure a formal document, affording full protection against the interference of the Orphan Chamber.

I am, Sir, your's obediently,

Durandallah, October 23, 1821.

B. T. G.

## Freedom of Discussion.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

There are few men that will not confess the propriety of Freedom of Discussion, when the subject in consideration is of no individual interest to themselves, or if the Discussor is inclined to view things in exactly the same light as they do. They are then all for the Liberty of the Press, and are willing enough to account it a blessing (as it really is) of the most vital importance to the dearest interests of mankind; to the defence of Liberty, the valued birth-right of man, and elucidation of Truth, the very soul of Discussion. But if the views taken of the question should happen not to accord with their notions, prejudices, habits, or feelings, the *canon* of impartiality, candour, and liberality of sentiment is succeeded by the sneers of scurrility and abuse.

These trite and obvious reflections were suggested by the Letter headed "STATE OF THE INDIAN ARMY," and signed "CARNATICUS;" the consequent spleen and venom that were manifested towards the unknown author of that production, and the reflections which by some were cast on you for the insertion of what they term a false and barefaced Libel on the Company's Troops in India. I do not mean to enter into a detail of the merits of that Letter; to defend nor disprove it, nor am I competent to do so, being a young Officer, without the slightest personal experience of the conduct of our Native Troops in the Field; but from what I have heard and read, I should be very far from concluding that they were deficient in courage or activity in the hour of danger. The defenders of our Sepoys are not wanting in well authenticated facts to prove their steadiness in the day of battle, and their unparallel devotedness and respect to their rulers; a quality which, I fear, the European Privates are not very notorious for. Nevertheless, it is certainly ridiculous (as some have done) to put the bodily strength and stamina of a Native Sepoy in comparison with that of a British Soldier, notwithstanding his residence in an uncongenial clime, and his irregular manner of living. I allude to his almost constant intoxication; no Troops in the world are taken more care of, but the fatal facility of procuring deleterious liquors has not yet been counteracted.

Notwithstanding the offence which I have heard some few have taken at the insertion of the Letter signed "CARNATICUS," I think you have no cause to regret the loss of their favor; for the liberal minded, which I hope in British India are far predominant, (and indeed the extensive circulation of your Paper, and

consequently the generous sentiments it contains, leave no doubt of it,) will ever admire the feeling which has prompted the Editor of the CALCUTTA JOURNAL, to patronize *Freedom of Discussion*; and they cannot but have observed, that on every occasion its valuable pages have been open to the arguments and opinions of both sides of the question.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

Bandah, Oct. 12, 1821.

D— L— R—.

## Lower Orphan School.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I observe in your Paper of this morning a Letter on the subject of the Lower Orphan School, which professes to be the production of some one who has a zealous regard for its honor, but who certainly has not a zeal according to knowledge.

It appears that the Secretary of the Military Orphan Society, in advertizing for a Head Master and an Assistant Master, noticed that the persons chosen would be expected to attend at the Free School to learn the details of the National System of Education (as it is called), which is there to be seen in practice, the Master having been procured from the Central Institution in London, where School Masters are bred up to be sent to distant parts of the country, where it may be desired to establish Schools on this plan.

Every one who knows any thing about the "National System," as it is termed, (or in plain words, Lancaster and Bell's System), is aware that the advantages are that the elder boys are made to supply the places of Under Masters, and that by teaching the same lesson at once to a class of children, the attention of all is kept alive, while by other arrangements, in using sand, slates, and tables, much expence in books and paper is saved. It is a peculiarly cheap and efficient System for a large Elementary School: and those who are entrusted with the management of the Lower Orphan School appear therefore very wisely to desire that their new Masters should learn all it's petty details, and see it's mechanism at work. For this purpose the Secretary advertises that they will be expected to go and learn this at the only place in Calcutta where they can see it, and from the only person here who was bred up to it (so to speak), at the School in Baldwin's Gardens. And this displeases PHILO RECTUS; and he calls it "an attempt to lessen the School in the estimation of the Public!" It seems the System at the Lower Orphan School is in PHILO RECTUS's opinion a better one; it differs widely, he assures us, from the Free School, in the system of tuition, internal discipline, and all other points. I will grant that it is much better; nay, that there is no comparison between them; yet there is nothing absurd in the Advertisement. If it is important that the new Master should learn the details of the "National System," it is plain that he will not learn them at the Orphan School, where we are told a "widely different system" (be it better or worse) prevails.

Having myself some knowledge of the facts of this case, I wish to point out, to such of your readers as take an interest in it, one point in this curious letter. The Advertisement was signed with the name of an individual who is Secretary to the one School and a Governor of the other. For some years before he became Secretary of the Orphan Society he discharged the duty of an active and zealous (gratuitous) Superintendent of both the Lower and Upper Orphan Schools, and I happen to know that whatever "Rudiments" of Dr. Bell's System may prevail in them, were introduced by arrangements which he carried into effect and superintended.

If PHILO-RECTUS did not know these facts, "particularly interested" as he tell us he is in the Lower School, he exhibits a more than common boldness of assertion in plumply assuring us, that the person who penned the Advertisement must be totally ignorant of the state of the School. If he did know them, what are we to think of his letter? It shows to my mind as little love of straight forwardness, notwithstanding his fine name, as any oblique attack that I ever saw.

October 23, 1821.

PHILO-MASTIX.

## Extract from Norman.

## Recital of Indian Battles.

Did youthful pride my bosom swell,  
I could of deeds of valour tell.  
I've been in battle, and I've seen  
The Goorkah sabre glitter sheen;  
O'er the heads of heroes waving,  
Who, the British bayonet braving,  
Our foremost warriors scattered wide,  
O'er the rugged mountain's side;  
And vainly deemed the battle won,  
Ere yet the strife was well begun.  
A stronger band, in firm array,  
Checked their career, and stood at bay,  
And stubbornly maintained the fight.  
Till reinforcements reached the height.

Our ready ranks were ranged with skill,  
Around the summit of the hill;  
In dell below our foemen stood,  
Concealed by trees and underwood.  
Through the low clouds of settling smoke  
The frequent flashes brightly broke;  
Swift as light the bullet flies,  
The sudden sound as sudden dies,  
Its hissing smothered in a flood  
Of its choking victim's blood.  
Many a haughty crest is low,  
But vain the struggles of the foe;  
For numbers, skill, and discipline  
To quell their hardihood combine.  
I need not the result relate—  
The trembling coward fled the fate,  
That better patriots sternly met,  
Who died upon the bayonet.  
I could not join the ruthless cry,  
The insulting shout of victory,  
O'er men, whose worth their foes revere,  
Who fought for all that man holds dear—  
While the pursuer's voice of pride,  
Rolled along the mountain's side,  
I lingered sadly for a space,  
The workings of despair to trace,  
Upon a dying comrade's face:  
O'er mortal offering to grieve,  
Which sympathy could not relieve.

Beside me, reddening the clay  
With his warm blood, a husband lay.  
Though weltering on the gory ground,  
And tottering on delirium's brink;  
While mighty mountains swarm around,  
And earth beneath him seemed to sink;  
He thought on her, who every care,  
And every joy was wont to share;  
Whose image floated in his mind,  
With love and love's delights combined.  
The gentle friend, whose voice had power  
To soothe in sorrow's darkest hour!  
Who now shall share her sorrow? who  
Console that breast, so kind and true?  
The idea, to his failing heart,  
Did a despairing strength impart.  
From earth he tried his head to raise,  
And strove to fix his wavering gaze:  
But quick and anxious grew his gasp;  
His cold, damp hand relaxed its grasp:  
His breast distends, to sink beneath  
The pressure of the hand of death;  
Slowly it sinks, to rise no more;  
'Tis still—his agony is o'er.

## Shipping Arrivals.

## MADRAS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Oct. 3	Sophie	British	G. French	Trincomalie	—
4	Lion	British	T. W. Stunt	Bimnapatam	Sept. 1
4	Tender Cochin	British	T. H. Twynam	Trincomalie	—

## BOMBAY.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 21	Teignmouth	British	H. Hardy	Bushire	Aug. 20
22	Antelope	British	T. Tanner	Surat	Sept. 20

## Shipping Departures.

## CALCUTTA.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Oct. 19	Elizabeth	British	G. Vint	Bombay
19	Lady Flora	British	J. D. Arnes	Isle of France
22	HeeraKhonsamoot	Siamese	Nacoda	Siam
22	Governor Phillips	British	T. L. Maingy	Port Jackson

## MADRAS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Oct. 3	Gortryda	British	N. Birsey	Masulipatam
5	Clara	British	W. Gibson	Southward
5	Meeramadeta	British	C. Kail	Colombo

## BOMBAY.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Sept. 25	Aurora	British	J. W. Guy	Malabar Coast
25	Thetis	British	H. Wyndham	Surat

## Stations of Vessels in the River.

OCTOBER 22, 1821.

At Diamond Harbour.—H. C. S. ERNAAD, outward-bound, remains,  
—HEERA KHONSAMOOT, (Siam) passed down.

Kedgerce.—LADY FLORA, MAITLAND, and ELIZABETH, outward-bound, remain,—THETIS, passed down.

New Anchorage.—Honorable Company's Ships MARQUIS OF WELLINGTON, and THOMAS GRENVILLE,—CORNWALLIS,—SAO DOMINGOS ENEAS, (P.)

Saugor.—JAMES SCOTT, outward-bound, remains.

## Marriages.

At St. Thomas's Mount, Madras, on the 3d instant, by the Revd. Mr. ROY, Captain FREDERICK DERVILLE, of the Horse Brigade, to AMELIA, third Daughter of Lieutenant Colonel LIMOND, of the Artillery.

At Bombay, on the 24th ultimo, at St. THOMAS'S Church, by the Reverend N. WADE, A. M. Senior Chaplain, Mr. DENNIS LERSON, Pay Master Sergeant in His Majesty's 65th Regiment, to Mrs. ISABELLA DENBY, of Colobah.

## Births.

On the 20th instant, at the house of her sister, Mrs. T. M. GALE, Mrs. P. EXMER, of a Son and Heir.

At Bombay, on the 22d ultimo, the Lady of Lieutenant Colonel ARCHISON, Military Auditor General, of a Daughter.

At Bombay, on the 24th ultimo, the Lady of LAZAR J. MIGUEL, Esq. of a Son.

At Satarah, on the 17th ultimo, the Wife of Mr. Conductor M. HYAM, of the Commissariat Department, of a Son.

## Deaths.

On the 21st instant, the infant Son of Mr. J. LANDEMAN.

On the 13th instant, the infant Daughter of Mr. L. REBEIRO, aged 8 days.

At Ghazepore, on the 16th instant, after a lingering illness, Ensign JOHN FOLEY, doing duty with the Honorable Company's European Regiment. His remains were attended to the grave by the whole of his brother Officers, the band and drums playing a Dirge.

At Bombay, on the 21st ultimo, during his passage from Gogo to the Presidency, Captain JOHN STEWART, of the 2d Battalion 3d Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry.

At Bombay, on the 22d ultimo, MARY FLORENTIA, the infant Daughter of Captain LECHMERE COORE RUSSELL, of the Honorable Company's Regiment of Bombay Artillery, aged 11 months and 5 days.

At Bombay, on the 25th ultimo, CAETANO SIKOENS DE CARVALHO, Esq. of Mozambique.